

Office of the Secretary, Interior

§4.113

the proper scope of the appeal: *Provided, however,* That the objecting party may be granted a continuance if necessary to enable him to meet such evidence.

§4.109 Hearing—election.

Within 15 days after the Government's answer has been served upon the appellant, or within 20 days of the date upon which the Board enters a general denial on behalf of the Government, notification as to whether one or both of the parties desire an oral hearing on the appeal should be given to the Board. In the event either party requests an oral hearing, the Board will schedule the same as hereinafter provided. In the event both parties waive an oral hearing, the Board, unless it directs an oral hearing, will decide the appeal on the record before it, supplemented as it may permit or direct. A party failing to elect an oral hearing within the time limitations specified in this section may be deemed to have submitted its case on the record.

§4.110 Prehearing briefs.

Based on an examination of the appeal file, the pleadings, and a determination of whether the arguments and authorities addressed to the issues are adequately set forth therein, the Board may, in its discretion, require the parties to submit prehearing briefs in any case in which a hearing has been elected pursuant to §4.109. In the absence of a Board requirement therefore, either party may, in its discretion, and upon appropriate and sufficient notice to the other party, furnish a prehearing brief to the Board. In any case where a prehearing brief is submitted, it shall be furnished so as to be received by the Board at least 15 days prior to the date set for hearing, and a copy shall be furnished simultaneously to the other party.

§4.111 Prehearing or presubmission conference.

Whether the case is to be submitted without a hearing, or heard pursuant to §§4.118 through 4.123, the Board may upon its own initiative or upon the application of either party, call upon the parties to appear before a member or

hearing officer of the Board for a conference to consider:

(a) The simplification or clarification of the issues;

(b) The possibility of obtaining stipulations, admissions, agreements on documents, understandings on matters already of record, or similar agreements which will avoid unnecessary proof;

(c) The limitation of the number of expert witnesses, or avoidance of similar cumulative evidence, if the case is to be heard;

(d) The possibility of agreement disposing of all or any of the issues in dispute; and

(e) Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal.

Any conference results that are not reflected in a transcript shall be reduced to writing by the Board member or the hearing officer. This writing shall thereafter constitute part of the record.

§4.112 Submission without a hearing.

Either party may elect to waive a hearing and to submit his case upon the Board record, as settled pursuant to §4.114. Such waiver shall not affect the other party's rights under §4.109. In the event of such election (see the time limitations for election in §4.109), the submission may be supplemented by oral argument (transcribed if requested) and by briefs.

§4.113 Optional small claims (expedited) and accelerated procedures. (See §4.100(a)(2).)

(a) The procedures set forth in this rule are available solely at the election of the appellant.

(b) *Elections to utilize small claims (expedited) and accelerated procedure.* (1) In appeals where the amount in dispute is \$10,000 or less, the appellant may elect to have the appeal processed under a SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure requiring a decision of the appeal, whenever possible, within 120 days after the Board receives written notice of the appellant's election to utilize this procedure. The details of this procedure appear in paragraph (c) of this section. An appellant may elect the ACCELERATED procedure rather than the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED)